NEWS BREAK

MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

Volume 16, Number 6 September 2001

SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING:
MacWorld Expo Report and Demos
– Elsa Travisano
Microsoft Outlook Express Secrets
– Jay Manning

Join us on **Tuesday, September 4th** at 7:30 PM in **Physical Sciences building room 121** on the SUNY Oneonta campus for our monthly MUG ONE meeting.

Vice President Elsa Travisano will report on MacWorld Expo and demo *Print Explosion Deluxe*. President Jay Manning will give his often-delayed presentation on *Outlook Express*.

Jay and Christine anticipate that this will be their final MUG ONE meeting prior to their planned move to Florida. Come to the meeting and wish them well.

For more information, contact Terry Helser at 432-8123 or email us at mugone@stny.rr.com.

FAREWELL TO JAY AND CHRIS MANNING

It's hard to imagine the local Macintosh community without Jay Manning. For nearly a decade Jay has been an indispensible member of MUG ONE, serving first as group Librarian, followed by four consecutive terms as President.

As the owner of Music and Video Repair, Jay has repaired and enhanced countless Macs and peripherals for schools, agencies, businesses and individual Mac users over the years. With unfailing good cheer Jay has salvaged our hard drives, revived our ailing monitors and enhanced our (computer) memory.

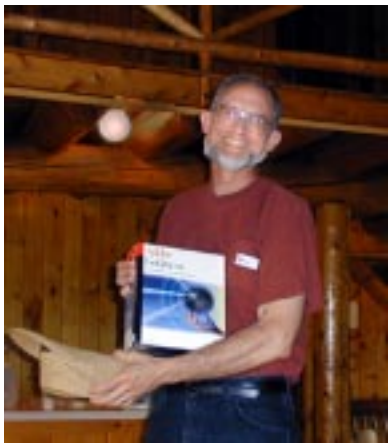
Jay's wife Christine's failing health necessitates a move to Sarasota, Florida where they will be closer to family members. Good luck, Jay and Chris. We'll miss you dreadfully.

– Elsa Travisano

UGU, MACWORLD EXPO HIGHLIGHTS

At least a dozen MUG ONE members joined the record 64,000 attendees at MacWorld Expo and Conferences, held at New

– continued on page 2



Beaming winner Terry Helser shows off the raffle's grand prize, Adobe GoLive 5.0, at June's MUG ONE picnic.

PICNIC FEATURES FOOD, FUN, PRIZES

Over 30 MUG ONE members and their families took time out from a particularly busy weekend to attend the third annual MUG ONE picnic on June 24th. Hats off to Terry Helser, who arranged for us to use the splendid lodge at the newly reopened SUCO College Camp.

Grillmeisters Jay Manning and Tom Travisano served pork and chicken spiedie shish-kebabs, London broil with Tom's famous soy marinade, sausages and burgers (meat and veggie) from the grill as we feasted on the breads, fruit, subs, salads and desserts brought by MUG ONE members.

At three o'clock we gathered inside the lodge for the raffle. Tickets were drawn from Terry's trusty hat, and no one went home empty-handed. Among the happy winners were Ron Bailey and Tom Travisano, who each won their choice of a book from Peachpit Press, Doug Kinney, a 56k modem donated by Jerome Rudd. The full list will be posted on the website soon. Terry Helser won the grand prize, Adobe *GoLive 5*. For years Terry has put in an enormous amount of work behind the scenes as MUG ONE's secretary and meeting site coordinator, so it's especially gratifying that he should be the raffle's grand prize winner.

Many thanks to everybody who attended and helped make the picnic a success. Special thanks go to Louise Miller of Adobe for donating the grand prize. See you at next year's picnic!

JUNE 5, 2001 MUG ONE MEETING

Elsa welcomed about 30 of us to the last meeting until Fall. She sent around a sign up sheet for the picnic, scheduled for June 24, and told us the meat, veggie burgers, buns, plates, cups, utensils, drinks, desert and grills will be provided.

We have recently received donations of *Microsoft Office* and *AppleWorks 6*, and talked about how to best use them. We could raffle them, put every member's name in a hat, so not just those attending a meeting could win, or we could use them as a fundraiser. No decision yet.

The library has moved to the Main Street Print Shop at 353 Main St. across from the Oneonta Post Office (go in the side entrance). The shop is open 9:30 AM to 5 PM. Johanna Koenig, Librarian, will be in 2-4 PM Mondays, but whenever the shop is open you can sign out books or drop off returns. Call Barbara Dauria ahead at 432-7800 to check out hardware items like the camera or Zip drive.

Fran Sokol is taking orders for Peachpit Press books. If 11 are ordered, you get a 40% discount, so order several and often. Catalogues are available at the meetings or from officers.

Apple is looking for Mac experts and sales staff for the retail store to be opened in Colonie Mall, Albany. Go to Apple.com for applications and information. Elsa announced that she will be a speaker at MacWorld Expo in July, and that MUG ONE has been invited to be one of six users' groups staffing the user group booth in the exhibit hall. Elsa needs members who can do two hour shifts on Thursday, July 19 in NYC at the Javits Center.

Questions and Answers

During a short Q&A session, a member was having problems with an HP Laserjet 400 and an Epson printer not working, which may be related to the Adobe Type Management extension. Turn all of them or just ATM off and try it. A query about which books to give as gifts brought testimonials for Peachpit QuickStart and Wow! books and to look at the reviews in past issues of the newsletter on our Web site, www.mugone.com. Recycling bags for inkjet cartridges were distributed to anyone who wanted them. To find the file that locks you out of a timed trial version (the question was about Adobe software), you can try a Sherlock search by date, select "advanced" and "show invisible files" or do an Option + Find in older OS versions.

Program: MYOB's AccountEdge, Barbara Dauria

Barbara Dauria, MUG ONE member and owner of Main Street Print Shop, demonstrated MYOB's business software *AccountEdge*. The program is compatible with *Excel* and *Quicken*, which Barb uses for her checking account. Barbara started her business in 1976 with *QuickBooks Pro*. The most recent version of *QuickBooks Pro* works with OS 9.1 and was updated for Y2K, but is no longer supported. by Intuit. She found *Peachtree Accounting* too advanced and decided to try MYOB's program.

The first thing she did was print the help file. She showed us the three LARGE three-ring binders that resulted! Can you say "significant learning curve?" *AccountEdge* can do single or multiple users and can password-protect sensitive areas as needed. We then learned about doing business on a cash basis (only mark paid when you actually receive the money) or an accrual basis (listed as paid when billed, even if you don't get the money until later), and that you have to decide which approach to take during the interview when you begin the program.

She then discussed entering new customers in the database, how to enter "Cash Sales" so you don't have to enter one-time customers and how to print multiple labels of the same customer. This is a full network version which is not the case with some competing products. She then did a quick demo of *QuickBooks* which she prefers for small businesses but alas is no longer supported, and finished with the best advice I have heard in a while:

"Do what you do best, and hire out the rest!" Amen.

A $100 discount coupon was offered as a special meeting incentive, which brought the retail price down to $149.

We then used a cap to dispense raffle tickets. Winners took home Apple OS X tee shirts, black suede Apple caps, Apple iPens, markers and more. We are saving the 56K modem and lots of other prizes for the picnic raffle. The soda and butterscotch bars disappeared while networking flourished. Good job, guys.

The next meeting will be Sunday, June 24 at 1 pm at the SUNY College Camp. Join us to meet friends, eat too much and win stuff.

– Terry L. Helser, Secretary

– MacWorld, continued from page 1

York's Jacob Javits Convention Center July 18-20. Show highlights included faster, CD-RW–enhanced iMacs and the recently introduced iBook as well as the mounting wave of applications for OS X. Vendors offered firewire CD and hard drives, including several portable drives. Beatware's *Toonworks* animation software was a surprise hit of the show.

The third User Group University conference, held July 17rh, brought 150 user group leaders from around the world together for workshops and brainstorming sessions on topics ranging fromTutorials to Stagnation and Motivation.

Adobe (a surprising no-show on the Expo floor), Corel and Apple hosted informative User Group breakfasts. My show highlight was serving on the panel for the conference session "User Groups: What They Can Do For You." The next MacWorld Expo will be held January 8-12 in San Francisco.

– Elsa Travisano

SOFTWARE REVIEW: *PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS*

Adobe Photoshop Elements

Adobe Systems Inc. www.adobe.com
$99, $69 upgrade for registered users of *Adobe PhotoDeluxe, Photoshop Limited Edition* and selected competitive software

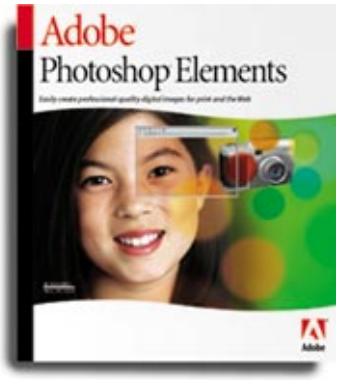
Photoshop Elements is truly a breakthrough product. Adobe has managed to create an application that offers most of the functionality of *Photoshop* for 1/6th the price.

Photoshop Elements occupies the middle position of Adobe's photo software continium. Software of choice for photo professionals is, of course, the full version of *Photoshop*, which features advanced color management, *Illustrator*-like curves tools, support for vector shapes, web and dynamic media tools and *ImageReady* software for sophisticated web processing. The software for true beginners is still *PhotoDeluxe;* unfortunately the Mac version hasn't been updated in years. *PhotoDeluxe* uses vastly simplified tools and features templates for creating projects like cards and calendars. *PhotoDeluxe* saves files in a proprietary format which is incompatible with most other programs.

Unlike *Photoshop Limited Edition*, which it replaces, *Photoshop Elements* is far more than a hobbled version of *Photoshop*. *Photoshop Elements* is aimed at amateur photographers, photo enthusiasts and hobbyists and business users who want to explore high-end digital imaging but need an affordable entry point. *Elements* uses real *Photoshop* tools but offers an easier to use interface along with many enhanced features that are not available in *Photoshop*.

Elements opens with a Quick Start screen, offering button access to the most commonly used functions including new, open, paste, acquire, tutorials and the help menu. A variation on the *Photoshop* tools palette appears on the left, and two top bars under the menus offer icons for common functions, a series of tabs for palettes (file browser, recipes, filters, etc.) and modifiers for the tool currently selected. For example, when the paint brush tool is selected, the modifier bar allows you to choose brush shape and size, mode, opacity and wet edges. One welcome addition to the tool palette is the red eye brush, which streamlines the common *Photoshop* task of removing red reflection from the eyes of photograph subjects.

The palette tabs at the top of the screen give ready access to a range of functions. Place your cursor over a tool or palette tab and the hints palette gives a brief explanation of the tool or palette, along with a button to push if you want more help. The file browser lets you navigate through folders on your computer from within *Elements,* then displays thumbnail photos of a folder's contents. To open an image, simply click on its thumbnail. The recipe palette offers step by step directions for tasks like adding elements to an image, color correction, enhancing text, cleaning up images and importing photos. New recipes can be downloaded as they become available.



The filters and effects palettes show thumbnail examples of what the filter or effect will look like, so you can choose without having to try out each effect on your image.

Photoshop's image menu has been divided into two menus: image and enhance. The image menu has an automatic straighten and crop function. This can lead to hilarous results in some cases. No problem if it comes out looking strange – as in *Photoshop,* there are multiple levels of undo.

The enhance menu includes slider bar tools for adding fill flash and adjusting backlighting. With some experimentation, these tools can work wonders on imperfectly lit photos.

Elements uses standard *Photoshop* filters, so the sky's the limit on the special effects you can apply. The "automate" functions under the file menu allow you to perform functions on multiple photos contained in a folder, including powerful batch processing (you can convert the file type, image size, resolution and naming of a folder's entire contents with a single click), printable contact sheets, web photo galleries and photo package, which sizes multiple copies of a photo on a single sheet of photo paper. Photomerge allows you to create a panorama from a series of overlapping photos.

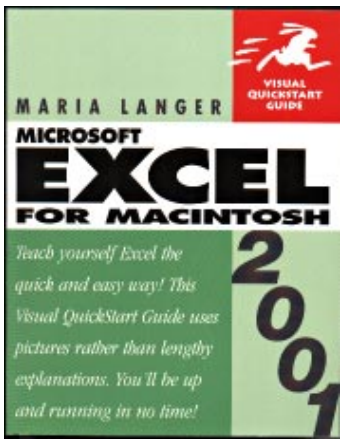
Elements files can be saved in 16 different formats, including Photoshop, JPEG, TIFF, PICT and PNG, so compatibility with other applications shouldn't be a problem.

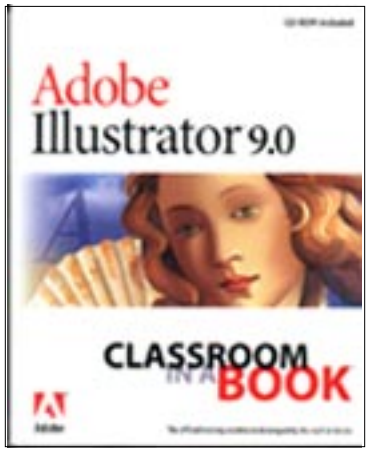
I'm terrifically impressed with *Photoshop Elements*. Unless you truly need the high end features of *Photoshop, Photoshop Elements* should more than meet your needs. My only recommendation to Adobe would be to add the capability for making photo greeting cards, one of the most common activities for amateur digital photographers. When I suggested this to product manager Terry White at the Adobe User Group breakfast, he said "sounds like a recipe to me." Perhaps there will be a card-making recipe available for download one day.

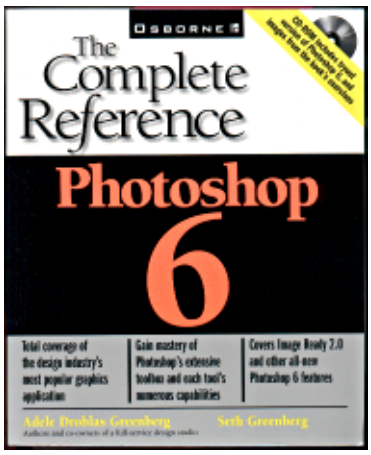
– ELSA TRAVISANO

Photoshop Elements System requirements:

PowerPC, Mac OS 8.6, 9.0, 9.0.4 or 9.1, 64 MB of RAM with virtual memory on, 150 MB of available hard disk space, color minotor with 256 color (8-bit) or greater video card, 800x600 or greater monitor resolution, CD-ROM drive.


MARIA LANGER
VISUAL QUICKSTART GUIDE
MICROSOFT
EXCEL
FOR MACINTOSH
Teach yourself Excel the quick and easy way! This Visual QuickStart Guide uses pictures rather than lengthy explanations. You'll be up and running in no time!
2001





BOOKS: EXCEL 2001, ILLUSTRATOR 9 CLASSROOM, PHOTOSHOP 6 COMPLETE REF.

Excel 2001 for Macintosh Visual QuickStart Guide, by Maria Langer. 304 pp. Peachpit Press, 2001. $17.99.

Microsoft's *Excel 2001* has undergone enough of a redesign that long-time *Excel* users may want to reorient themselves to the Mac's predominant spreadsheet software. Maria Langer's *Visual QuickStart Guide* fills the bill for them, as well as for newer users of *Excel*.

The *VQS* format with its ample illustrations and step by step instructions for specific tasks makes for a painless refresher course. The introduction gives a handy summary of recent changes, including the list wizard, calculator for entering formulas, multiple pane clipboard, formatting palette and improved integration with other programs.

Chapters cover the *Excel* workplace, working with worksheets and files, functions in formulas, formatting cells, creating charts, collaboration, working with other applications, web pages and links, and setting preferences to customize your workspace. Pay particular note to the chapter on working with lists so that you can leverage this powerful new set of *Excel* features.

The book concludes with appendices of functions and of menus and shortcut keys. The latter is especially useful as several key commands have been changed for this version.

Adobe Illustrator 9.0 Classroom in a Book, 444 pp. plus CD-ROM. Adobe Press, 2000. $45.

Whether you're boggled by bezier curves or are struggling to scale Adobe *Illustrator's* learning curve, *Adobe Illustrator 9.0 Classroom in a Book* will help you get a grip on this sophisticated illustration program. The book includes a tour of *Illustrator 9.0* followed by fifteen chapter-long lessons on topics ranging from creating basic shapes to preparing graphics for web publication. Each lesson gives step by step instructions, and concludes with questions and answers so you can test yourself on the content covered. The book is extensively illustrated with screen shots and diagrams of how to use the various illustration tools and includes a section of color plates. The requisite fonts, design elements and beginning and end versions of each lesson are included on the accompanying CD-ROM.

Photoshop 6: the Complete Reference, by Adele Droblas Greenberg and Seth Greenberg. 791 pp. plus CD-ROM. Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2001. $49.99.

To distinguish themselves within the crowded field of *Photoshop* books, the authors of *Photoshop 6: the Complete Reference* have set out to combine a reference manual with an instruction book. This effort meets with mixed success.

As a reference, the book works well. Practically every dialog box and command in *Photoshop 6* is covered, and chapters deal with the full range of *Photoshop* activities from the basics to advanced techniques. The table of contents lists specific topics within each chapter, like drawing with the freeform pen tool. This makes it easy to zero in on tasks you wish to master.

The exercises, however, are less successful. The step by step instructions can be hard to follow, and are not always keyed to the images on the CD-ROM. More annoyingly, most of the images on the CD-ROM are saved in JPEG rather than *Photoshop* format, which means you must use the File: Open command from within *Photoshop* to open them; double-clicking on an image from the desktop opens it in *PictureViewer* or your computer's designated picture viewing software rather than *Photoshop*.

The accompanying CD-ROM includes trial software, a bonus chapter on color theory, and images for exercises. The book also includes information on *ImageReady 3.0,* not *2.0*. as is mistakenly stated on the cover. If you're looking for a thorough reference guide to *Photoshop 6,* this is a good choice. If you want an instruction book, *Photoshop 6 Classroom in a Book* from Adobe Press is a better choice.

-ELSA TRAVISANO

SOFTWARE REVIEW: *PRINT EXPLOSION DELUXE MACINTOSH*

Print Explosion Deluxe Macintosh
3 CD-ROMs, 750 page user manual/graphics catalog.
Nova Development www.novadevelopment.com
$59.95, rebate for current users of *Print Explosion*.

There's a lot to get excited over in Nova Development's *Print Explosion Deluxe Macintosh*. This new version of the best-selling Mac home graphics software boasts more than 8,800 ready–made designs, over 90,000 graphics, 3,000 greeting cards, 5,000 photographs, 2,500 fine art images, 8,500 quotations to add to your creations and 500 fonts on three CD-ROMs. The software supports a staggering range of Mac operating systems from 7.6.1 to OS X. Indeed, *Print Explosion Deluxe Macintosh* is one of the first consumer products for OS X.

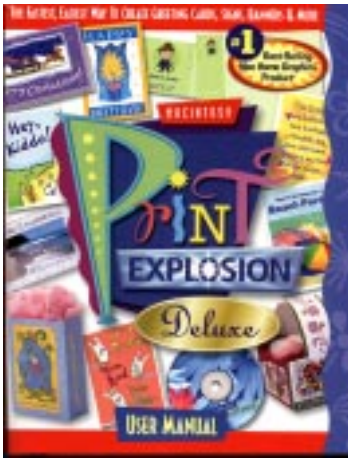
Print Explosion Deluxe Macintosh comes with templates for creating greeting cards, signs and posters, flyers, banners, certificates, invitations, calendars, labels, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, fax cover sheets, report covers, postcards, party sets, (hats, masks, gift boxes, etc.) gift tags, bookmarks and crafts. New to this version are templates for CD labels, electronic greetings, tee shirts, mousepads and web pages. It's hard to imagine a project that *Print Explosion Deluxe Macintosh* doesn't cover.

Powerful new features have been added to this version of the software, including an improved user interface that looks particularly gorgeous in its Aqua OS X form, mail merge, which lets users create mailing labels from a database of

Graphic from Nova's Print Explosion Deluxe Macintosh

names and addresses, improvements to label making that allow you make multiple labels as well as make changes to a single label, a quotation database featuring nicely chosen quotes on subjects ranging from architecture to religion, and special tools to publish a project directly to email or turn it into a web page.

Though it is not designed as a clip art collection per se, *Print Explosion Deluxe's* graphics, once opened from within the



program, can be dragged and dropped into other applications. To place the graphic of the woman and computer (*Newsbreak's* editor, perhaps?) into *PageMaker 6,5,* I opened a blank document in *Print Explosion Deluxe*, chose the graphic from the "insert" menu, then simply dragged it onto the *PageMaker* page. Graphics from other programs can also be dragged and dropped into *Print Explosion Deluxe,* including libraries from *Art Explosion,* Nova's line of clip art products. This is a marked improvement over the proprietory file formats of many earlier graphics programs, which limited the user to working within a single application.

A 750 page combination user manual and graphics catalog provides a black and white thumbnail picture of every graphic included in the three CD-ROM software package. Image styles in the collection range from cartoony to stylized to fine art. Virtually all images are in color. If nothing in the collection suits your fancy (hard to imagine, given the variety available) you can import your own graphic or photograph from a scanner or digital camera using TWAIN, or simply insert a photo through either the insert menu or by choosing "import graphic" from the file menu.

Greeting card projects are organized by theme, with the dimensions of each card listed beneath its color thumbnail. I would find it easier if cards were grouped by output size, so I didn't have to hunt through the designs to find projects that fit the dimensions of the card stock I planned to use. I would also like to see examples of the 500 fonts in the catalog, though the "customize" text dialog box shows a preview of the font you've selected as you type. These are minor complaints about an otherwise top-notch package. I highly recommend it.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

Print Explosion Deluxe Macintosh

System Requirements:
Any Power–PC–based Macintosh including iMac, 16 MB available RAM, CD-ROM drive, System 7.6.1 or later, including OS X. Compatible with all printers. Can print EPS graphics on non-PostScript printers.

Doug Kinney, Barbara Dauria, Tom Slavinsky (visiting), Elsa Travisano, Brian Foley, Art Dauria and John Maas at the MUG ONE's booth at MacWorld Expo, July 19th.

MUG ONE STAFFS USER GROUP BOOTH

MUG ONE members were out in force at MacWorld Expo, held from July 18-20 at the Javits Conference Center in New York City. On July 19th eight of us took turns staffing the MUG ONE table at the Northeast Macintosh User Groups booth on the bustling Expo show floor. We answered questions about our group and user groups in general, and distributed membership forms and copies of *Newsbreak*.

Booth staffers included Art and Barbara Dauria, who arrived early to handle the setup, Brian Foley, Doug Kinney, Gerry Stoner, Ellen Thorne, Elsa Travisano, who pinch hit throughout the day, and John Maas, who handled booth breakdown. Tom Slavinsky dropped by just in time for the photo op; Gerry and Ellen are pictured on the website: www.mugone.com.

Thanks to everyone for their help in making the MUG ONE booth such a great success, and special thanks to Judy Sellers, who created our much-admired custom MUG ONE tee shirts.

NEWSBREAK is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE – the Macintosh Users Group of Oneonta, New York. Editor: Elsa Travisano. Contact us at:

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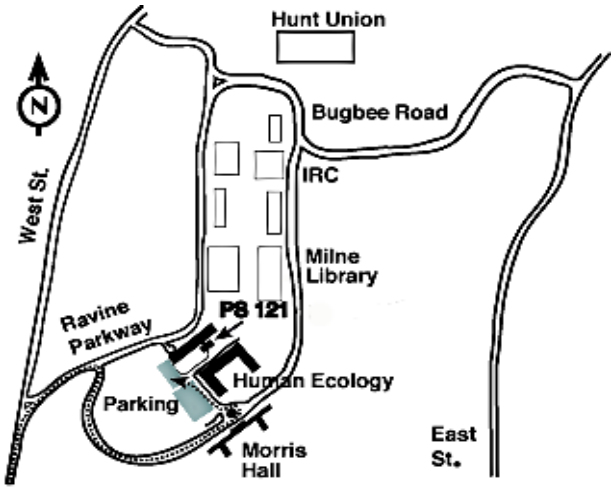
SUNY Oneonta Campus, Oneonta, NY



MAP BY TERRY HELSER

Directions to Physical Sciences Building room 121

- From Main Street in Oneonta, take Chestnut Street to West Street.
- Take West Street to Ravine Parkway, then take the second right by the big OSC sign.
- Follow this road around and up the hill to the flagpole roundabout next to Morris Hall.
- Go 3/4 around the roundabout and through the main parking lot behind the Human Ecology building to the small parking lots at the far end. Park anywhere in these lots.
- Take the main sidewalk between Human Ecology and the Physical Sciences building.
- Enter the low, glass main entrance to your left. The front room on your right is room 121.

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